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LETTER DATED 30 MARCH 1999 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to convey the attached self-explanatory letter, dated 27 March 1999, which I have received over the weekend from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) (see annex).

I should appreciate your bringing the present communication from the Secretary-General of NATO to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

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Annex

Letter dated 27 March 1999 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to the Secretary-General of the United Nations

I am writing to update you on developments concerning ongoing North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) operations in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

During the last few days, an increasing number of reports indicate that security forces of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia have taken advantage of the absence of international observers and media to commit serious human rights abuses and atrocities against the civilian population, and to plunder and destroy civilian infrastructure and dwellings. This has exacerbated the flow of refugees and internally displaced persons, increased human suffering and led to heightened tension and instability in the region.

As a result, I have directed the NATO Supreme Allied Command Europe (SACEUR) to initiate a broader scope of operations to intensify action against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia forces and compel them to desist from further attacks in Kosovo and to meet the demands of the international community.

As I have repeatedly made clear, NATO military actions are intended to support the political aims of the international community. All Allies stand united in this action and in our determination to bring a halt to violence in Kosovo and to prevent further humanitarian catastrophe.

I will continue to keep you informed of significant developments.

(Signed) Javier SOLANA